

and Jelski, and forwarded to Mr. Sclater for examination by M. L. Taczanowski, of Warsaw, C.M.Z.S.

Mr. Sclater stated that, after careful examination and consultation with Mr. Gould and Mr. Salvin, he had come to the conclusion that this bird must be referred to a new species, which he proposed to characterize as follows:—

*THAUMASIUS*¹ *TACZANOWSKII*, sp. nov.

Supra metallice viridis, in capite cupreo lavatus, plumis subtus cinereis; alis fuscis, tectricibus dorso concoloribus; cauda æquali, supra dorso concolori, versus apicem cupreo tincta, subtus fusca, versus apicem cupreo-virescente; corpore subtus albo, lateraliter et in crisso præcipue pallido cinereo perfuso; gutture toto punctis minutis, cordiformibus, nitenti-viridibus oblecto; rostro forti, paulum incurvo: long. tota 4·0, alæ 2·6, caudæ 1·5, rostri a rict. lin. dir. 0·9.

Hab. Guajungo, prov. Cajamarca, Peru.

Obs. Sp. *Th. viridicipiti*, Gould, ut videtur, affinis, rostro fortiusculo, cauda æquali, et maculis gutturis minutis insignis.

Mr. Sclater exhibited a living *Amphisbænian* lately received by the Society from Monte Video, which appeared to be referable to *Amphisbæna darwini*, D. & B.

The following papers were read:—

1. Note on the *Pachycephala icteroides* of Peale, with Description of a supposed new Species. By E. L. LAYARD, C.M.G., F.Z.S.

The acquisition of the part of the 'Proceedings' of the Society for March and April of 1878, has put me in possession of the remarks of Mr. W. A. Forbes on *Pachycephala icteroides*, Peale, from Samoa (page 351), and has induced me to reconsider my opinion on that species given P. Z. S. 1876, p. 494. Unfortunately I can only do this from memory, as the Part (No. 3, of 1876) containing that page is wanting from my series.

In general terms, I believe I said "I doubt the occurrence of *P. icteroides*, Peale, in Samoa." To this belief I was led by Drs. Finsch and Hartlaub including it as a Fijian species in their 'Fauna Centralpolynesiens' in the "Einleitung" of which (page xxxiv) *P. icteroides* is given as from the "Viti-Gruppe," and from Viti Levu in particular. The bird I identified with *P. icteroides* is found on Ovalau, and as certainly is not found in Samoa. With *P. græffii*, Hartlaub, I at first confounded it (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 433), believing that another bird, that I afterwards named *P. intermedia*, was

¹ Hoc nomen ex θαυμάσιος, admiratione dignus, derivatum, "*Thaumasius*," nec "*Thaumatias*" melius scribatur.

P. vitiensis. The acquisition of the true *P. græffii* set me right; and I then settled that the bird was *P. icteroides*, never dreaming that a bird so far from uncommon could have escaped the notice of Drs. Gräffe and Finsch, and that there could be a *third* new species in Fiji, as I now see it to be.

I did not sufficiently consider the diagnosis given by Drs. Finsch and Hartlaub, which omits entirely the *jet-black head* possessed by my bird. Now also I have the advantage of reference to the original description and figures by Peale (Cass. Un.-St. Expl. Exp. (1858), p. 161. pl. x. fig. 3), thanks to the Smithsonian Institution; and I at once recall my observations.

What *P. icteroides* is I know not, unless it be the young of *P. flavifrons* (Peale). This Fijian bird is apparently undescribed; and as it has escaped notice up to this moment, I shall name it, if new,

PACHYCEPHALA NEGLECTA, n. sp.

♂. Above, back obscure darkish green, with a small patch of yellow on the immediate rump; head shining jet-black, all but the throat and chin, and a very small spot (not always present) between the eye and the nostril, which is of the light brilliant yellow of the whole of the underparts. In some specimens, a few straggling black feathers on the lower part of the throat, encroaching on each side of the chest, seem to point to the formation of a *narrow* black collar across the chest, such as is found in my *P. intermedia*. Wing-primaries edged more or less broadly with greenish grey (tail-feathers tipped with the same); secondaries broadly edged and tipped with pale yellow. The yellow of the underparts is a little darker than in *P. flavifrons*, agreeing, as far as my memory serves, with *P. intermedia*, of which I unfortunately have not retained a specimen, but is far less deep (orange-tinted) than in *P. græffii* or *P. torquata*, Layard. Length 6" 6"; wing 3" 9"; tail 2" 10"; tarsus 13"; bill (to gape) 12". Bill black; legs bluish; iris dark brown.

Hab. Ovalau, Fijis.

This species differs entirely from *P. flavifrons*, Peale, in which the colour of the back is cinereous, with the faintest tinge of green, the head being of the same colour; on the latter the spot on forehead is far larger and is united over the bill; the wing-primaries are only most narrowly edged with grey; and the whole form is slighter. I give the dimensions of *P. flavifrons* for comparison. Length 6"; wing 3" 3"; tail 2" 6"; tarsus 10½"; bill (to gape) 10".

Of the female of *P. neglecta* I unfortunately know nothing; but a very young male just showing a trace of yellow below, is of a palish chocolate-brown above throughout, tinged with green; below it is of a warm deep cinnamon-brown, with here and there a yellow feather. This is so like a female *P. vitiensis*, that I suspect it is also the livery of the female *P. neglecta*, nob.

On Viti Levu *P. neglecta* is replaced by the narrow-collared species, *P. intermedia*, nobis; *P. torquata*, nob., is confined, I think, to Taviani; *P. græffii*, F. & H., to Vanua Levu; and *P. vitiensis*, G. R. Gray, to Kandavu.

I have six specimens of *P. neglecta*, all males, in various phases of plumage, all from Ovalau—and five of *P. flavifrons*, male, female, and young, of both sexes.

2 Description of four new Species of *Chamæleon* from Madagascar. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.Z.S., Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

[Received January 25, 1879.]

(Plates XI.–XIII.)

The Trustees of the British Museum have recently obtained by purchase a small number of animals collected in the neighbourhood of Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, a locality from which we should scarcely have expected to receive many novelties. However, singularly enough, the five Chamæleons sent in this collection prove to represent four species which appear to have escaped the notice of previous collectors.

CHAMÆLEON MALTHE, sp. nov. (Plate XI.)

Snout (of the adult male) produced into a flat obtuse horn of moderate length, grooved above and below, and covered with large tubercles. Occipital region rather flat, angular but not pointed behind, on each side with a broad flap, the two flaps being continuous behind the occiput. Dorsal crest low, formed by short pointed tubercles unequal in size. No gular or ventral median series of tubercles. The round flat tubercles on the occiput and the occipital flaps are unequal in size, but none very large, most nearly granular. Along each side of the throat and on the limbs larger granules may be seen scattered among the small ones; but these larger granules are almost wanting on the side of the body. Heel without spur or prominence. Greenish yellow, with white upper lip, with a black band running from the eye along each occipital ridge; the portion of the neck which is covered by the occipital flaps deep black.

A single adult male, 9 inches long, the tail measuring exactly one half.

CHAMÆLEON BREVICORNIS, sp. nov. (Plate XII. fig. A.)

Allied to *C. cucullatus* and *C. monachus*, but with the superciliary ridge continued to the end of the occiput.

The snout of the male is produced into a very short flat protuberance, concave above; the raised canthus rostralis passing uninterruptedly into the superciliary ridge, which is continued to the occiput. Upper surface of the occipital region flat, without prominent median crest. Occiput behind angular and pointed, but not produced into a spine; on each side a broad flap, the two flaps being nearly entirely separated from each other by a deep notch.